

replaced with the term "teardrop shaped holes", which is defined throughout the patent text. A complete listing of claims is attached herein incorporating these corrections. No new matter is presented in this submittal.

As stated in Amendment "A" dated 12/27/2005, original Claims 2-4 are cancelled and replaced with new Claims 9-12. As documented in Office Action Summary dated 09/27/2005, Claims 1, 5, 6, 7 and 8 were withdrawn. This response does not change any of these claim statuses.

Please note that the Office Action Summary dated 06/12/2006 contained three administrative errors. These have been interpreted as follows:

(a) Page 2 states "Regarding Claim 12, it is not clear what is not clear if one or more of the shoulder rivets in the teardrop shaped slots." Our response contained herein interprets this statement as "Regarding Claim 12, it is not clear if one or more of the shoulder rivets is inserted into the teardrop shaped holes."

(b) Page 3 states that Claims 9 and 12 were anticipated by Rosenband (US Patent 5,951,060). Our research indicated the correct Rosenband patent number should be 5,957,060. Our response contained herein is based on 5,957,060.

(c) Page 3 further discusses Rosenband and states: "...by bolting one or more horizontal members (12) to one vertical..." Our research indicated that this item should be (30) in lieu of (12). Our response contained herein is based on item (30).

Response to Detailed Action:

Claim 9 is distinct in that it presents a shelf assembly featuring a shelf horizontal member that accommodates dimensional lumber pieces individually fastened to its surface. Typically, dimensional lumber pieces are not desired as holding surface for an elevated shelf as movement of these pieces could result in an unstable holding surface. In Sheahan et al., predrilled holes in the shelf horizontal member allow each dimensional lumber piece to be individually fastened at their intended position. This concept is unique and is not illustrated or discussed in either Rosenband (US Patent 5,957,060) or Brock et al. (US Patent 6,948,691 B2). The Rosenband shelf "is formed from a single sheet of metal." The Brock et al. mounting apparatus does not present a shelf, or allow a shelf, to be fastened to its top surface.

Claim 10, a dependent claim of Claim 9, is unique in that the front to back length of the shelf horizontal member is equal to the product of a specified number of dimensional lumber pieces. This permits an integer number of dimensional lumber pieces to exactly fit across its front to back length. This concept is unique and is not illustrated or discussed in either the Rosenband or Brock et al. patents.

Claim 11, a dependent claim of Claim 10, is unique in that the shelf horizontal member allows the fastening of dimensional lumber pieces forming a butt joint at the centerline of its cross section. In doing so, a continuous, uninterrupted lengthwise expansion of the shelf holding surface is achieved with the addition of shelf assemblies and sets of dimensional lumber pieces. This concept is unique and is not illustrated or discussed in

either the Rosenband or Brock et al. patents. The Rosenband patent would result in a gap between two adjacent shelves, the gap size equal to the width of the U-shaped standard. Rosenband therefore is not able to achieve a continuous, uninterrupted shelf as presented in Sheahan et al. As stated above, the Brock et al. mounting apparatus does not present a shelf, or allow a shelf, to be fastened to its top surface.

Claim 12 is unique in that it presents a shelf vertical member with installed spacers and shoulder rivets. This combination of spacers and shoulder rivets permits the user to install the shelf vertical member onto an additional vertical member without the need of any tools. Additionally, once installed, the gap achieved by the spacer between these two vertical members permits the installation or disassembly of horizontal members onto either of these two vertical members, at the fastened interface, without the need to disassembly these two vertical members from each other. The installation of these members onto each other utilizes the common technique of inserting shoulder rivets on one of the members into teardrop shaped holes on the second member. One shoulder rivet inserted into one teardrop shaped hole is the common fastening technique. This claim is not limited to a specific quantity of shoulder rivets to teardrop shaped holes. The intent of the claim is achieved with a single shoulder rivet and a single teardrop shaped hole, or a large quantity of each. The installation of the shelf vertical member to an additional vertical member is depicted in Figure 16 in a mate-offset position. Final mating of these two vertical members, along with an installed horizontal member, is depicted in Figures 17 and 18. Teardrop shaped holes are clearly depicted throughout the patent text, reference Figure 12 as an example. This unique spacer and shoulder rivet combination is not illustrated or discussed in either the Rosenband or Brock et al.

patents. The Brock et al. patent shows no gap between its two vertical members. The Rosenband patent does not depict the fastening of two vertical members.